

AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 8 with the following rewritten paragraph:

Figure 5 is a side view of a third detail of a cutting block;

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 10 with the following rewritten paragraph:

Figure 7 is a side view of a fourth detail of a cutting block;

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 16 with the following rewritten paragraph:

Figure 12 is a top view of the detail of Figure 11; and

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 5, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The cutting block 26 comprises opposed tension frames or yokes 40 and 41, connected to each other by struts 42 so as to form a framework. In the aperture delimited by the framework, there is a plurality of blades 44. The blades 44 are arranged parallel to one another and are placed under tension by means of tie-bars 46 and 47 co-operating with the yokes 40 and 41. In particular, in the yokes 40 and 41 there are longitudinal slots 48. In a first yoke 40 there is provided laterally to the slot 48 a plurality of piston and cylinder devices 50 actuated hydraulically. The cylinder and piston devices 50 emerge from the yoke 40 outside the framework, constituting a thrust surface or bed. A first tie-bar, or movable tie-bar 46, is received transversely in the slot 48 of the yoke 40 and provided with the thrust bed so as to bear on the thrust bed with one end, widened into a T-shaped head 52, ~~on the thrust bed, to be urged~~ so as to be drawn out from the framework. In the slot 48 of the opposed yoke 41 a second tie-bar, or fixed tie-bar 47, is received transversely so as to bear with an insert, or chock 54, received in a seating 56 transverse thereto, against the outer surface of the opposed yoke 41. The ends 58 and 60, within the framework, of the movable tie-bar 46 and fixed tie-bar 47 co-operate with the ends of blades 44 placed side by side with one another, in the manner which will be described in detail hereinafter (Figures 4 and 5).

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 1, with the following rewritten paragraph:

In a first embodiment of the invention, each tie-bar 46, 47 has on its sides of the ends 58 and 60 ~~for coupling with the blades 44~~ two channels with an L-shaped profile for coupling with

the blades 44, arranged opposite each other and constituting lame bearing or incomplete seats 66. In other words, these incomplete seats are open seats, or in yet other words, the single seat 66 has half-bearing coupling surfaces. Said seats 66 are opposite one another and receive the ends of blades 44 placed beside each other.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 1, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The reinforcing members 76 and 78 are coupled by pressure to one of the flanks 88 and 90 of the tie-bars 46 and 47. For example, these reinforcing members 76 and 78 are connected to the flank 88 and 90 of the tie-bars 46 and 47 by threaded means 92 screwed into threaded holes 94 provided in the bar 68 of the tie-bars 46 and 47. The ~~head-96~~ heads of the threaded means 92, 96 ~~[[is]]~~ are advantageously countersunk in seats 98 ~~provided~~ in the reinforcing members 76 and 78. Preferably, the heads of the threaded means 92, 96 and the seats 98 are conical, and the seats 98 receive conical heads-96 head heads of screws threaded means 92, 96.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 16, with the following rewritten paragraph:

In a different embodiment of the invention, a flank 102 of the end of each of the movable tie-bars 46 and fixed tie-bars 47 co-operates with the opposed flank 104 of the tie-bar 46, 47 alongside, surrounding the end of the blades 44. In other words, seats are not provided in the tie-bars 46, 47 for the blades 44 (Figure ~~[[15]]~~ 13).

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 20, with the following rewritten paragraph:

In a further embodiment of the invention, each tie-bar 46, 47 has a channel with an L-shaped profile at ~~[[the]]~~ one end for connection to the blade 44. The channel with an L-shaped profile constitutes an incomplete attachment seat 106 for the blade 44. In this ~~ease~~ embodiment, the lateral surface 108 of the tie-bar 46, 47 is brought alongside a lateral surface 110 of the contiguous tie-bar 46, 47 and said tie-bars 46, 47 are arranged with flanks 108, 110 in mutual contact (Figures ~~13 and 14~~ 11 and 12).